

(a) whether it is a fact that cess is levied on the crude oil by Government in the country;

(b) if so, at what rate this cess is levied and what was the total amount collected through such cess during the year 1999-2000;

(c) the total amount which has been collected through such cess till March, 2000; and

(d) whether Government would contemplate to make up the losses of oil-pool account out of this amount.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rate of cess on crude oil is Rs. 900 per tonne w.e.f. 1.2.1989. The amount collected through cess during 1999-2000 is Rs. 2,572 crore (approx.) after deducting collection charges.

(c) As per information received from OIIB, the total amount of cess collected by the Government of India till March, 2000 is Rs. 36,011 crores (approx.) after deducting collection charges.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

VRS for IOC Employees

†83. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has decided to retire its employees by introducing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) if so, the total number of employees engaged in the company in April 2000, togetherwith the total number of employees likely to be surplus as per the estimate; and

(c) the annual additional financial expenditure being incurred by the indian Oil Corporation Ltd. due to these surplus employees?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) had introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme with effect from 1.6.1990 as per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises. Consequent on technology upgradation, modernisation, automation and system improvements, redeployment of employees at different locations became essential. As all concerned employees were not in a position to get redeployed owing to mobility constraints, etc., in order to help and facilitate separation of such employees and to achieve optimum utilization of manpower, the IOC decided to liberalise its Voluntary Retirement Scheme for a limited period from 3.5.2000 to 30.6.2000.

As on 1.4.2000, there were 34,059 employees on the rolls of the OIC. No employees are expected to become surplus. Hence the question of financial burden on the Corporation due to surplus employees does not arise.

Bridging of OIL pool Account Gap

†84. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil pool account gap is expected to be more this year in comparison to the last year;

(b) if so, what was the gap in the year 1999-2000;

(c) the expected gap during the current year 2000-2001; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) *Outstanding claims of oil companies from the oil pool account, stood at about Rs. 6000 crores (provisional) as on 31.3.2000*

(c) Oil pool account gap depends upon various factors such as fluctuation in international prices of crude and controlled petroleum products, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, domestic prices of controlled petroleum products etc. Hence it is not possible to accurately estimate the pool position on a future date.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.